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WALT DISNEY'S

DONALD DUCK

AND FRIENDS

DONALD DUCK AND FRIENDS

I recently received a lengthy letter from Pat McGreal who, among other things, discussed reader reaction to the Shambor stories, which appeared in the pages of this title, as well as the future of Shambor. I recognized that it was more interesting than anything I could write, so without further ado, here's our guest editorial from Pat.

—John Clark

Thanks to all the readers who responded so positively (and those who didn't, I suppose) to the "Shambor" Mickey Mouse adventures. The fact that you ran them consecutively was a big help. It allowed the series to gain momentum and establish itself.

When Carol and I proposed the idea to Byron Erickson in Copenhagen a few years ago, we had two goals in mind. First, we simply wanted to open up opportunities for Mickey, give him a canvas that we could return to over and over again without having to create something new from scratch. Second, we thought it would be fun to envelop our mouse in a great pulp fiction tradition… the earthling transported to a far-off world that required his (and only his) aid in righting wrongs and restoring order to his adopted home.

Precedents are many, the most obvious being Edgar Rice Burroughs' "John Carter Of Mars" series. For comic fans of my era, DC's Adam Strange and his periodic teleportation to the planet Rann, where his sweetheart Alanna (and unending menaces) awaited him, is indelibly stamped on the brain-pan. But I must admit, we were most influenced by National Public Radio's "Adventures Of Jack Flanders." These programs, recorded in the eighties as near as I can tell, are delightful, adventurous, spiritual, and just plain fun. Hop on the internet and look up "Jack Flanders." Order 'em in whatever form they come (cassette or CD) and have a blast!

The good news is I've just received a full-sized copy of the art for the final installment (for now) of the Shambor series. Ferioli did the job and it's magnificent! The conclusion is a three-parter and it lurches from one world to the other and back again! Hopefully, it ties up everything that's come before in the previous installments. Carol and I look forward to seeing the Shambor adventures completed within the pages of Gemstone's Disney comics. Perhaps compiled into a single volume? That would be nice, let's see what the market will support.

—Pat McGreal

nomscans~HaCsA

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Dialogue: Susan Daigle-Leach
Art: Gattino
Color: Janice Miller
Lettering: Sue Kolberg

Front cover art by Marco Rota, color by Gary Leach

NEXT ISSUE SHIPS WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8TH
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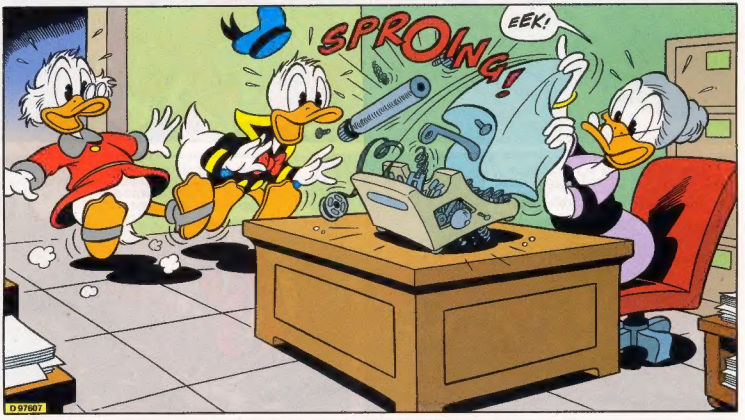
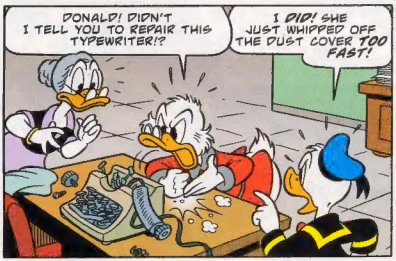
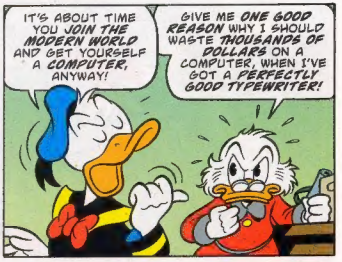
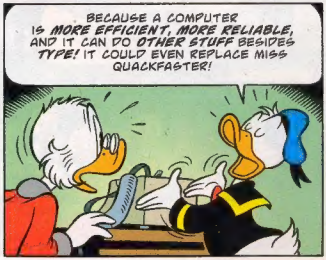
Walt Disney's

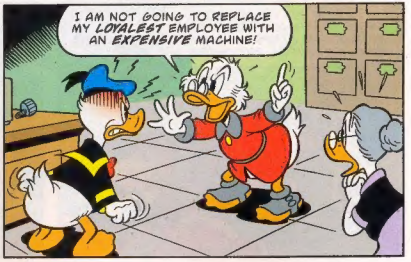
DONALD DUCK in THE HUMAN TOUCH

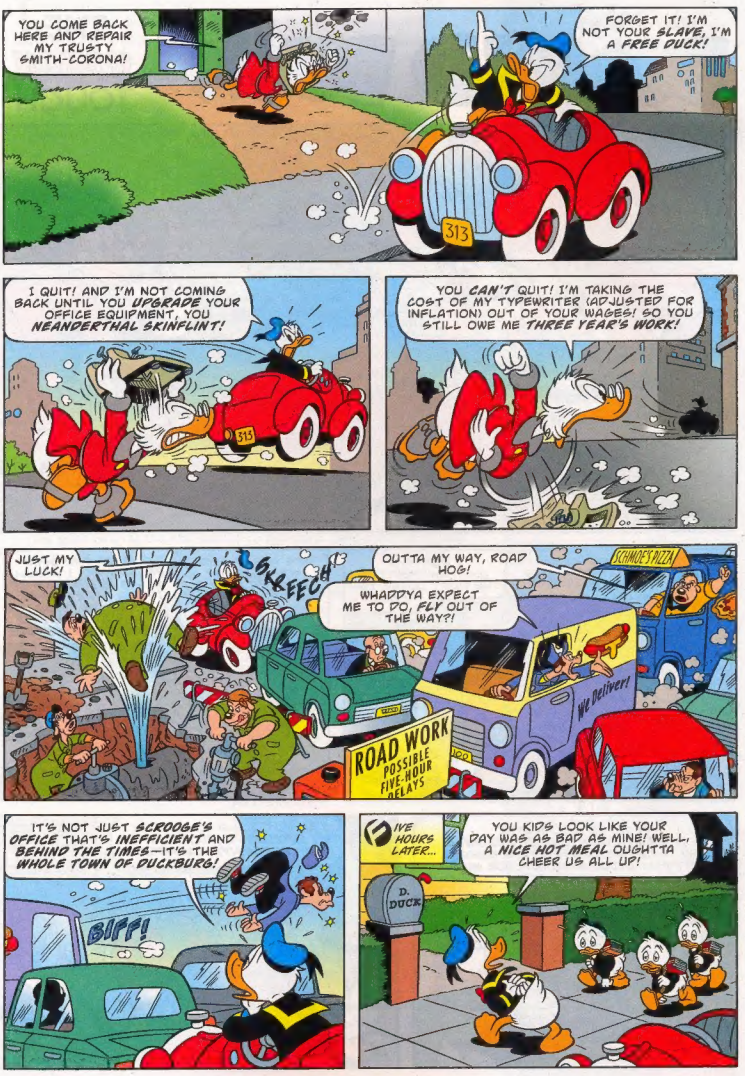


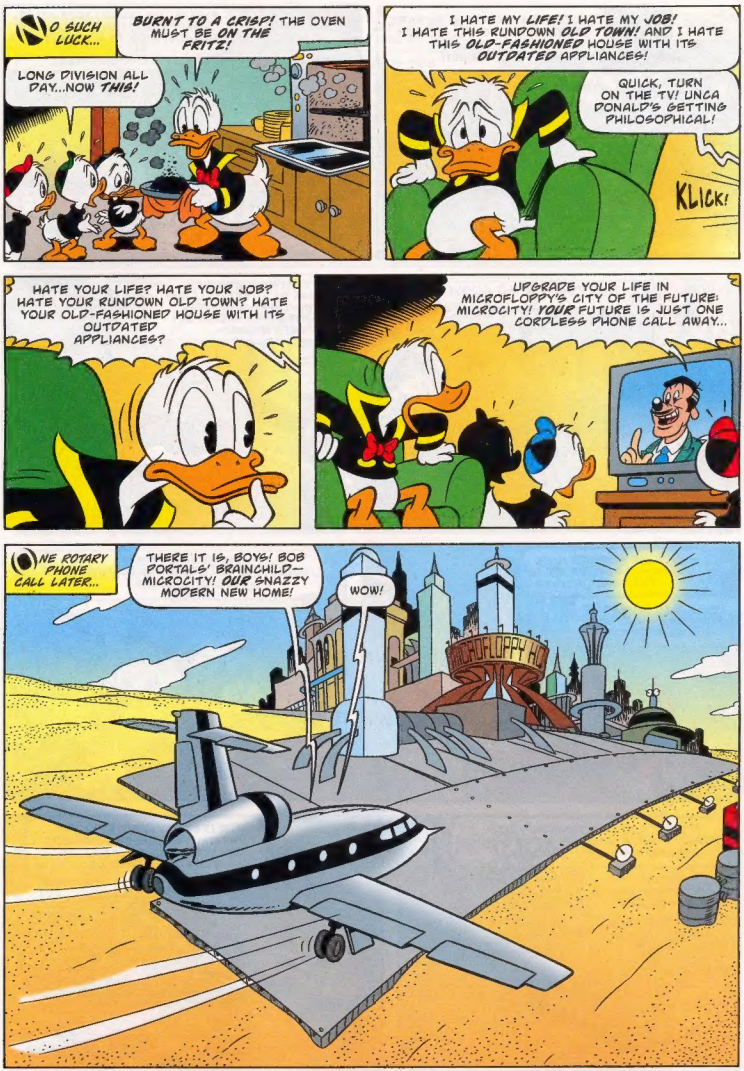


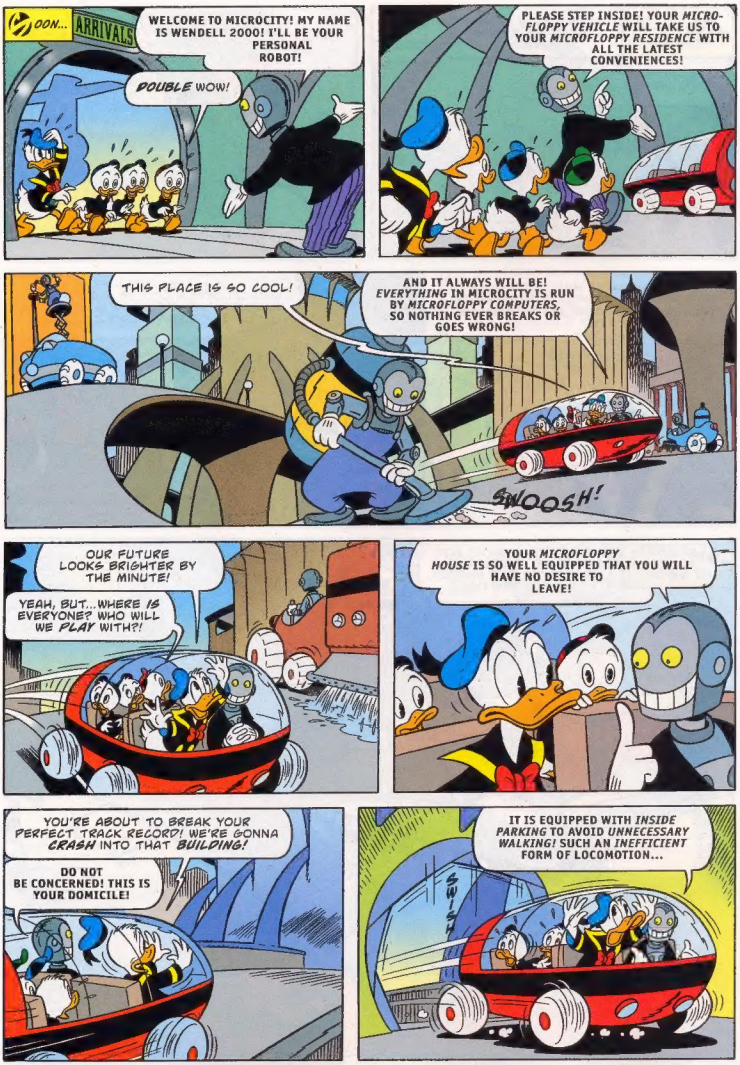

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU JOIN THE MODERN WORLD AND GET YOURSELF A COMPUTER, ANYWAY!
GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON WHY I SHOULD WASTE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS ON A COMPUTER, WHEN I'VE GOT A PERFECTLY GOOD TYPEWRITER!

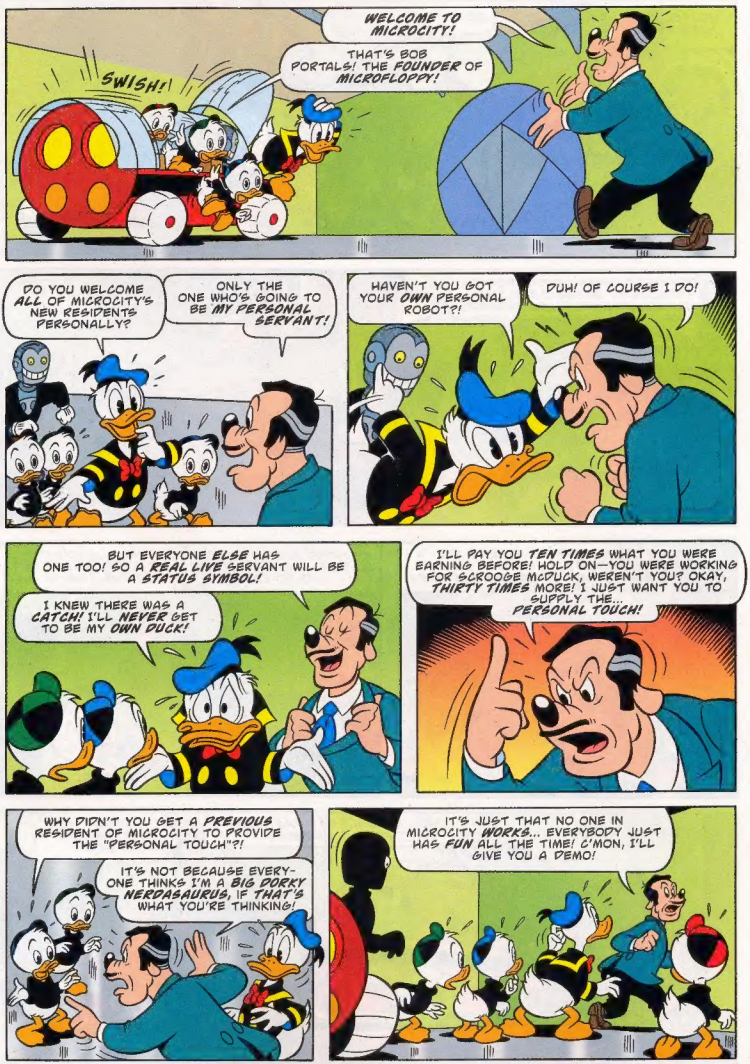

BECAUSE A COMPUTER IS MORE EFFICIENT, MORE RELIABLE, AND IT CAN DO OTHER STUFF BESIDES TYPE! IT COULD EVEN REPLACE MISS QUACKFASTER!

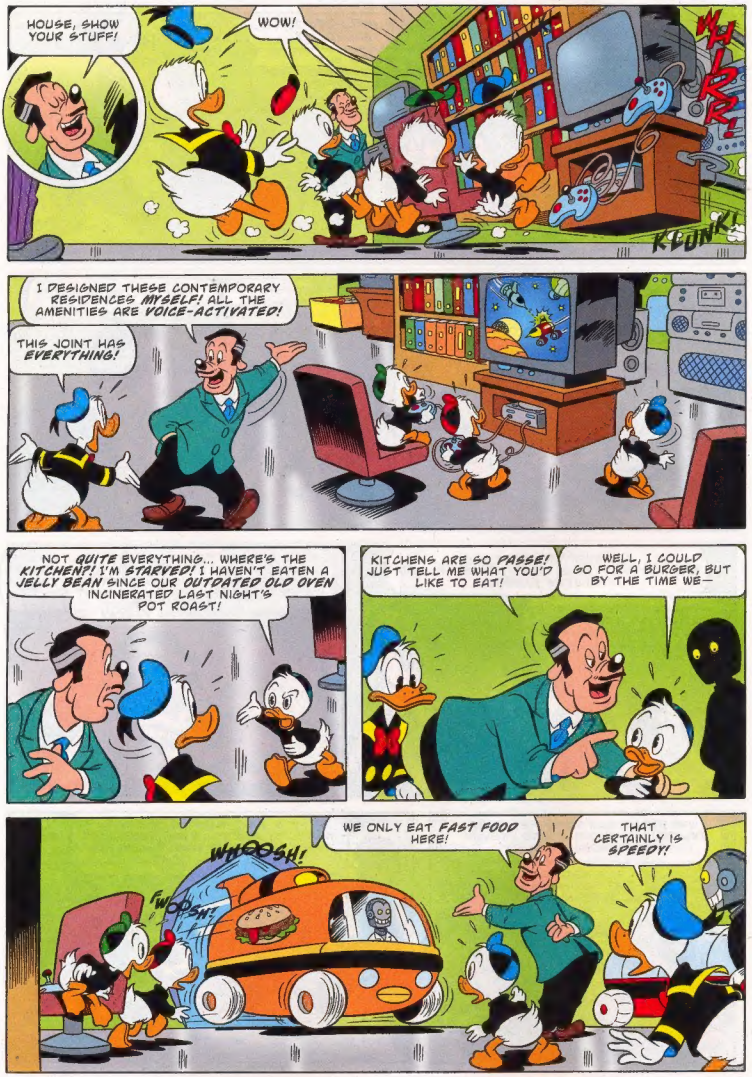



YOU COME BACK HERE AND REPAIR MY TRUSTY SMITH-CORONA!
FORGET IT! I'M NOT YOUR SLAVE, I'M A FREE DUCK!
313
I QUIT! AND I'M NOT COMING BACK UNTIL YOU UPGRADE YOUR OFFICE EQUIPMENT, YOU NEANDERTHAL SKINFLINT!
YOU CAN'T QUIT! I'M TAKING THE COST OF MY TYPEWRITER (ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION) OUT OF YOUR WAGES! SO YOU STILL OWE ME THREE YEAR'S WORK!
JUST MY LUCK!
SKREEECH
OUTTA MY WAY, ROAD HOG!
WHADDYA EXPECT ME TO DO, FLY OUT OF THE WAY?!
BEANACRE'S PIZZA
We Deliver!
ROAD WORK
POSSIBLE FIVE-HOUR DELAYS
IT'S NOT JUST SCROOGE'S OFFICE THAT'S INEFFICIENT AND BEHIND THE TIMES—IT'S THE WHOLE TOWN OF DUCKBURG!
BIFF!
FIVE HOURS LATER...
D. DUCK
YOU KIDS LOOK LIKE YOUR DAY WAS AS BAD AS MINE! WELL, A NICE HOT MEAL OUGHTTA CHEER US ALL UP!

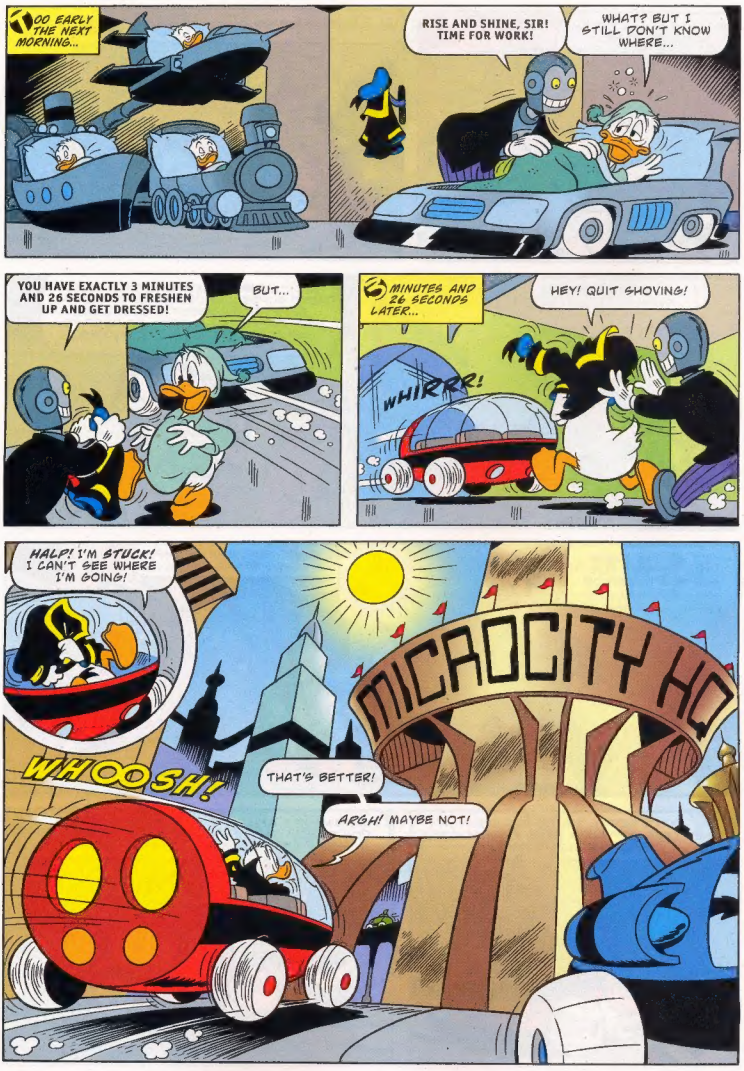

NO SUCH LUCK...
BURNT TO A CRISP! THE OVEN MUST BE ON THE FRITZ!
LONG DIVISION ALL DAY...NOW THIS!
I HATE MY LIFE! I HATE MY JOB! I HATE THIS RUNDOWN OLD TOWN! AND I HATE THIS OLD-FASHIONED HOUSE WITH ITS OUTDATED APPLIANCES!
QUICK, TURN ON THE TV! UNCA DONALD'S GETTING PHILOSOPHICAL!
KLICK!
HATE YOUR LIFE? HATE YOUR JOB? HATE YOUR RUNDOWN OLD TOWN? HATE YOUR OLD-FASHIONED HOUSE WITH ITS OUTDATED APPLIANCES?
UPGRADE YOUR LIFE IN MICROFLOPPY'S CITY OF THE FUTURE: MICROCITY! YOUR FUTURE IS JUST ONE CORDLESS PHONE CALL AWAY...
ONE ROTARY PHONE CALL LATER...
THERE IT IS, BOYS! BOB PORTALS' BRAINCHILD— MICROCITY! OUR SNAZZY MODERN NEW HOME!
WOW!
MICROFLOPPY HQ

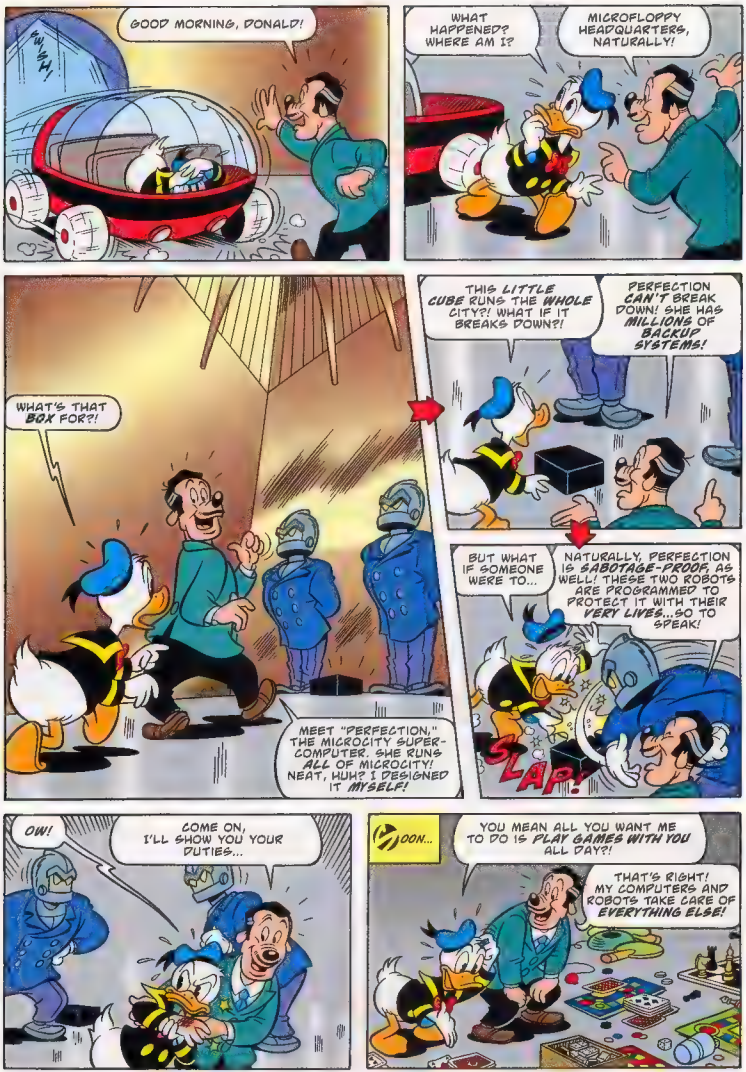

ARRIVALS
WELCOME TO MICROCITY! MY NAME IS WENDELL 2000! I'LL BE YOUR PERSONAL ROBOT!
DOUBLE WOW!
PLEASE STEP INSIDE! YOUR MICRO-FLOPPY VEHICLE WILL TAKE US TO YOUR MICROFLOPPY RESIDENCE WITH ALL THE LATEST CONVENIENCES!
THIS PLACE IS SO COOL!
AND IT ALWAYS WILL BE! EVERYTHING IN MICROCITY IS RUN BY MICROFLOPPY COMPUTERS, SO NOTHING EVER BREAKS OR GOES WRONG!
SWOOSH!
OUR FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHTER BY THE MINUTE!
YEAH, BUT...WHERE IS EVERYONE? WHO WILL WE PLAY WITH?!
YOUR MICROFLOPPY HOUSE IS SO WELL EQUIPPED THAT YOU WILL HAVE NO DESIRE TO LEAVE!
YOU'RE ABOUT TO BREAK YOUR PERFECT TRACK RECORD! WE'RE GONNA CRASH INTO THAT BUILDING!
DO NOT BE CONCERNED! THIS IS YOUR DOMICILE!
IT IS EQUIPPED WITH INSIDE PARKING TO AVOID UNNECESSARY WALKING! SUCH AN INEFFICIENT FORM OF LOCOMOTION...
SWISH!

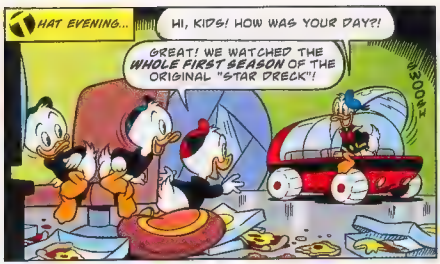

WELCOME TO MICROCITY!
THAT'S BOB PORTALS! THE FOUNDER OF MICROFLOPPY!
SWISH!
DO YOU WELCOME ALL OF MICROCITY'S NEW RESIDENTS PERSONALLY?
ONLY THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO BE MY PERSONAL SERVANT!
HAVEN'T YOU GOT YOUR OWN PERSONAL ROBOT?!
DUH! OF COURSE I DO!
BUT EVERYONE ELSE HAS ONE TOO! SO A REAL LIVE SERVANT WILL BE A STATUS SYMBOL!
I KNEW THERE WAS A CATCH! I'LL NEVER GET TO BE MY OWN DUCK!
I'LL PAY YOU TEN TIMES WHAT YOU WERE EARNING BEFORE! HOLD ON--YOU WERE WORKING FOR SCROOGE MCDUCK, WEREN'T YOU? OKAY, THIRTY TIMES MORE! I JUST WANT YOU TO SUPPLY THE... PERSONAL TOUCH!
WHY DIDN'T YOU GET A PREVIOUS RESIDENT OF MICROCITY TO PROVIDE THE "PERSONAL TOUCH"?!
IT'S NOT BECAUSE EVERY-ONE THINKS I'M A BIG DORKY NERDASAURUS, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE THINKING!
IT'S JUST THAT NO ONE IN MICROCITY WORKS... EVERYBODY JUST HAS FUN ALL THE TIME! C'MON, I'LL GIVE YOU A DEMO!

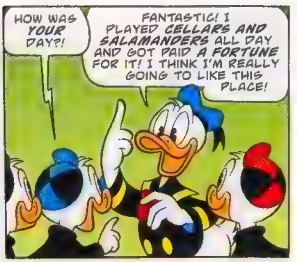

HOUSE, SHOW YOUR STUFF!
WOW!
HRR!
KDUNK!
I DESIGNED THESE CONTEMPORARY RESIDENCES MYSELF! ALL THE AMENITIES ARE VOICE-ACTIVATED!
THIS JOINT HAS EVERYTHING!
NOT QUITE EVERYTHING... WHERE'S THE KITCHEN?! I'M STARVED! I HAVEN'T EATEN A JELLY BEAN SINCE OUR OUTDATED OLD OVEN INCINERATED LAST NIGHT'S POT ROAST!
KITCHENS ARE SO PASSE! JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO EAT!
WELL, I COULD GO FOR A BURGER, BUT BY THE TIME WE—
WE ONLY EAT FAST FOOD HERE!
WHOOSH!
WHOOSH!
THAT CERTAINLY IS SPEEDY!

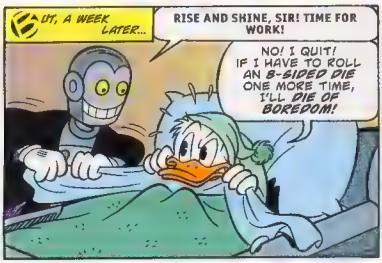
WOW! THIS IS A DREAM COME TRUE! NEXT YOU'LL BE TELLING ME WE DON'T HAFTA GO TO SCHOOL!
AS A MATTER OF FACT...YOU DON'T!
WHOOSH!
IF YOU NEED TO KNOW ANYTHING, JUST ASK WENDELL!
ALL THE 'BOTS ARE NETWORKED WITH OUR SUPERCOMPUTER! AND IT KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT EVERYTHING! IT'S SUPER! SO THERE'S NO NEED TO LEARN A THING OR GO TO SCHOOL!
I'D BETTER LEAVE YOU TO YOUR FUN! SEE YOU TOMORROW, DONALD!
ALL RIGHT, BUT...WHAT'S THE ADDRESS?
DON'T WORRY, THAT'S ALL BEEN TAKEN CARE OF! YOU'VE BEEN PROGRAMMED INTO THE COMPUTER!
SO WHAT?! I STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO!
WOW! THEY'VE GOT EVERY EPISODE OF "STAR DRECK"!
WHOOSH!

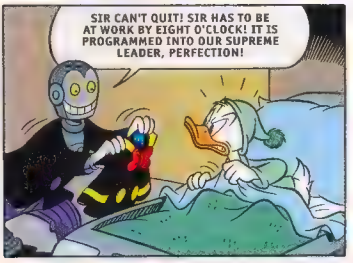

TOO EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...
RISE AND SHINE, SIR! TIME FOR WORK!
WHAT? BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE...
YOU HAVE EXACTLY 3 MINUTES AND 26 SECONDS TO FRESHEN UP AND GET DRESSED!
BUT...
5 MINUTES AND 26 SECONDS LATER...
HEY! QUIT SHOVING!
WHIRRR!
HALP! I'M STUCK! I CAN'T SEE WHERE I'M GOING!
MICACITY HQ
WHOOSH!
THAT'S BETTER!
ARGH! MAYBE NOT!

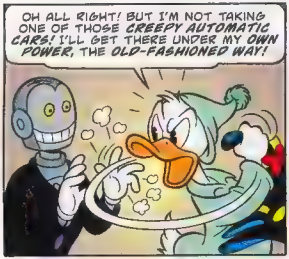

GOOD MORNING, DONALD!
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?
MICROFLOPPY HEADQUARTERS, NATURALLY!
WHAT'S THAT BOX FOR?!
THIS LITTLE CUBE RUNS THE WHOLE CITY?! WHAT IF IT BREAKS DOWN?!
PERFECTION CAN'T BREAK DOWN! SHE HAS MILLIONS OF BACKUP SYSTEMS!
MEET "PERFECTION," THE MICROCITY SUPER-COMPUTER. SHE RUNS ALL OF MICROCITY! NEAT, HUH? I DESIGNED IT MYSELF!
BUT WHAT IF SOMEONE WERE TO...
NATURALLY, PERFECTION IS SABOTAGE-PROOF, AS WELL! THESE TWO ROBOTS ARE PROGRAMMED TO PROTECT IT WITH THEIR VERY LIVES...SO TO SPEAK!
SLAP!
OW!
COME ON, I'LL SHOW YOU YOUR DUTIES...
OOOH...
YOU MEAN ALL YOU WANT ME TO DO IS PLAY GAMES WITH YOU ALL DAY?!
THAT'S RIGHT! MY COMPUTERS AND ROBOTS TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING ELSE!

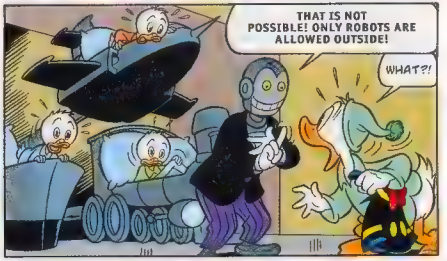

THAT EVENING...
HI, KIDS! HOW WAS YOUR DAY?!
GREAT! WE WATCHED THE WHOLE FIRST SEASON OF THE ORIGINAL "STAR DRECK"!!
2002

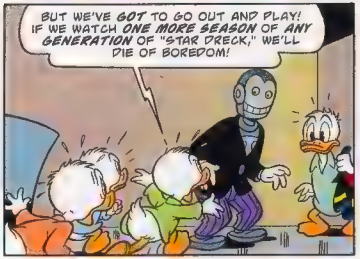

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?!
FANTASTIC! I PLAYED CELLARS AND SALAMANDERS ALL DAY AND GOT PAID A FORTUNE FOR IT! I THINK I'M REALLY GOING TO LIKE THIS PLACE!

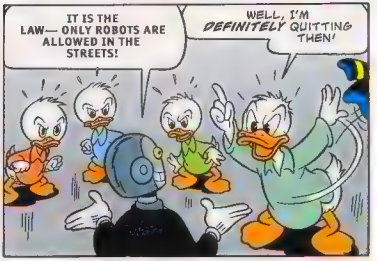

UH, A WEEK LATER...
RISE AND SHINE, SIR! TIME FOR WORK!
NO! I QUIT! IF I HAVE TO ROLL AN 8-SIDED DIE ONE MORE TIME, I'LL DIE OF BOREDOM!

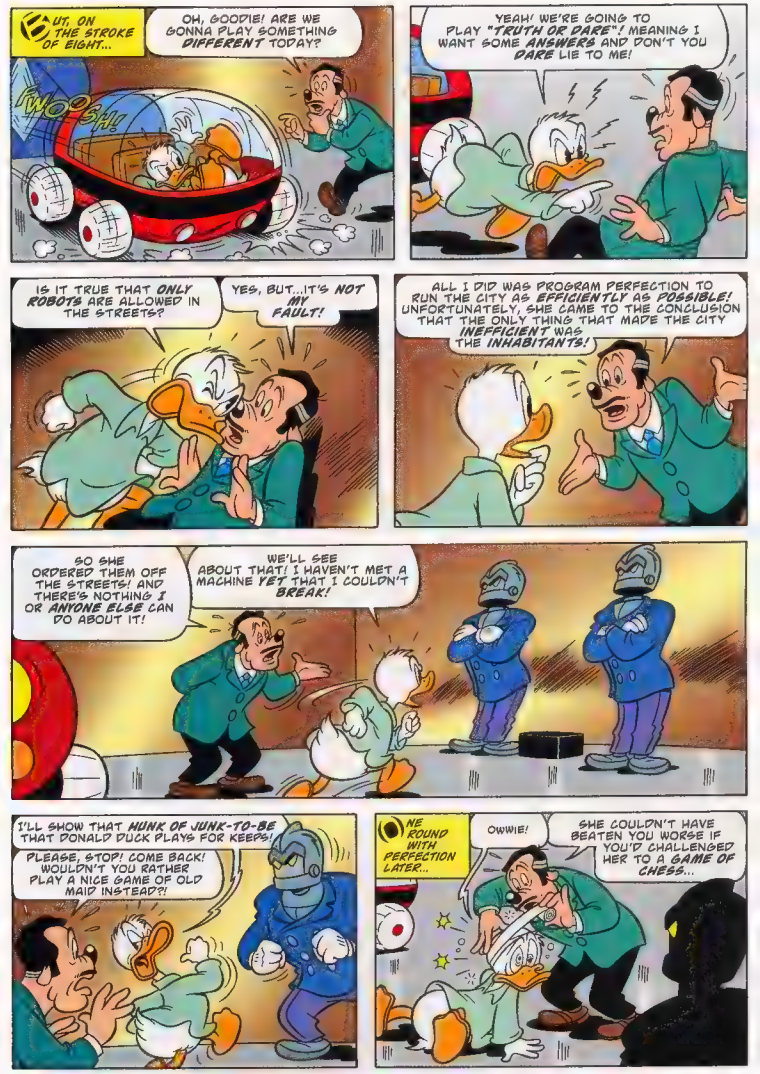

SIR CAN'T QUIT! SIR HAS TO BE AT WORK BY EIGHT O'CLOCK! IT IS PROGRAMMED INTO OUR SUPREME LEADER, PERFECTION!

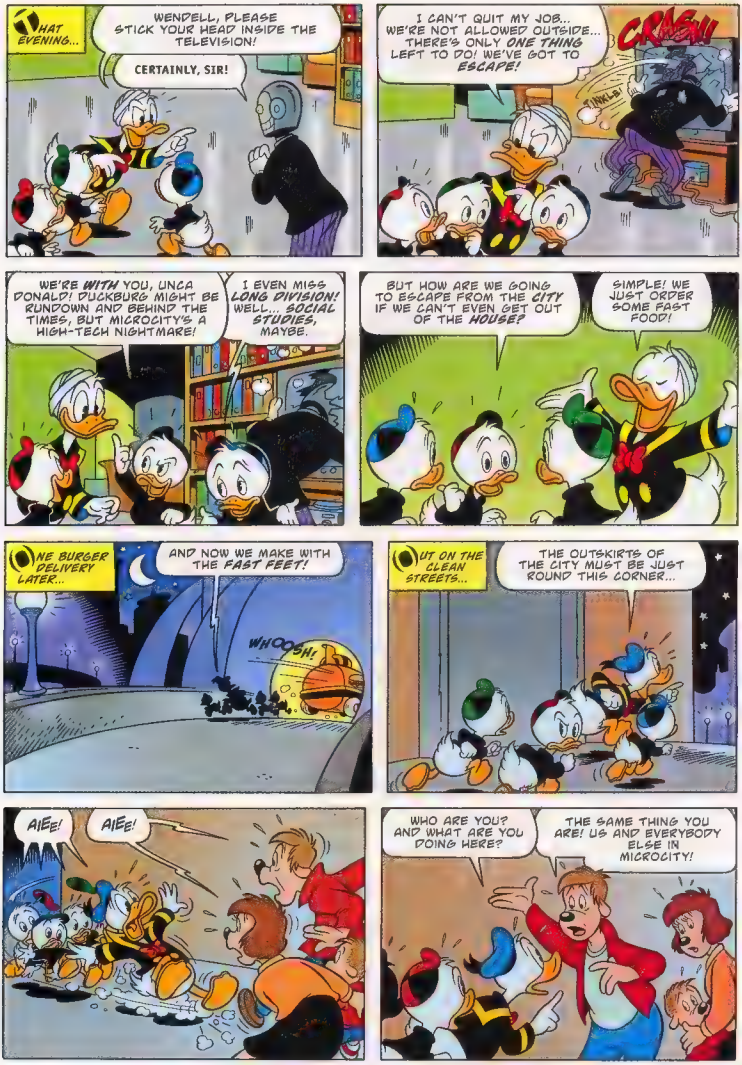

OH ALL RIGHT! BUT I'M NOT TAKING ONE OF THOSE CREEPY AUTOMATIC CARS! I'LL GET THERE UNDER MY OWN POWER, THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY!

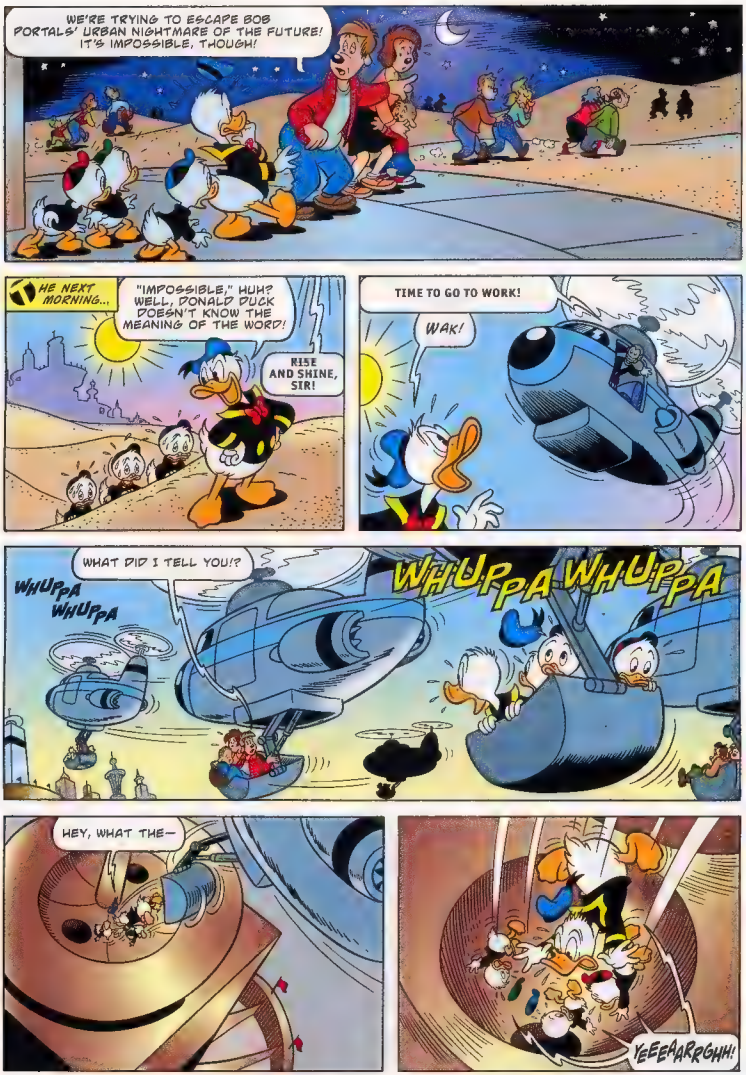

THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE! ONLY ROBOTS ARE ALLOWED OUTSIDE!
WHAT?!

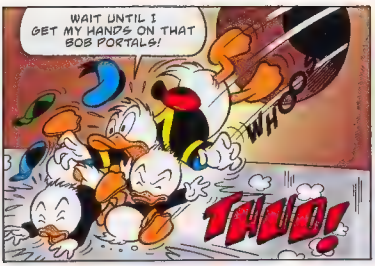

BUT WE'VE GOT TO GO OUT AND PLAY! IF WE WATCH ONE MORE SEASON OF ANY GENERATION OF "STAR DRECK," WE'LL DIE OF BOREDOM!

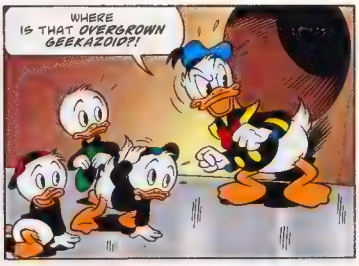

IT IS THE LAW— ONLY ROBOTS ARE ALLOWED IN THE STREETS!
WELL, I'M DEFINITELY QUITTING THEN!

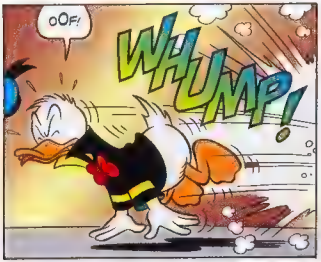

UT, ON THE STROKE OF EIGHT...
OH, GOODIE! ARE WE GONNA PLAY SOMETHING DIFFERENT TODAY?
TWO?
3H!
YEAH! WE'RE GOING TO PLAY "TRUTH OR DARE"! MEANING I WANT SOME ANSWERS AND DON'T YOU DARE LIE TO ME!
IS IT TRUE THAT ONLY ROBOTS ARE ALLOWED IN THE STREETS?
YES, BUT...IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
ALL I DID WAS PROGRAM PERFECTION TO RUN THE CITY AS EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE! UNFORTUNATELY, SHE CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ONLY THING THAT MADE THE CITY INEFFICIENT WAS THE INHABITANTS!
SO SHE ORDERED THEM OFF THE STREETS! AND THERE'S NOTHING I OR ANYONE ELSE CAN DO ABOUT IT!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT! I HAVEN'T MET A MACHINE YET THAT I COULDN'T BREAK!
I'LL SHOW THAT HUNK OF JUNK-TO-BE THAT DONALD DUCK PLAYS FOR KEEPS!
PLEASE, STOP! COME BACK! WOULDN'T YOU RATHER PLAY A NICE GAME OF OLD MAID INSTEAD?!
NE ROUND WITH PERFECTION LATER...
OWWIE!
SHE COULDN'T HAVE BEATEN YOU WORSE IF YOU'D CHALLENGED HER TO A GAME OF CHESS...

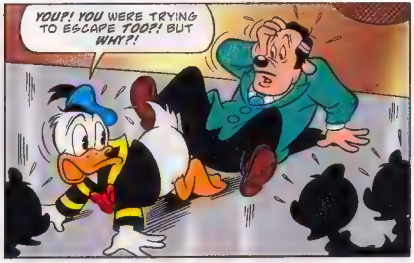

WHAT EVENING...
WENDELL, PLEASE STICK YOUR HEAD INSIDE THE TELEVISION!
CERTAINLY, SIR!
I CAN'T QUIT MY JOB... WE'RE NOT ALLOWED OUTSIDE... THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO! WE'VE GOT TO ESCAPE!
CRASH!!
TINKLE!
WE'RE WITH YOU, UNCA DONALD! DUCKBURG MIGHT BE RUNDOWN AND BEHIND THE TIMES, BUT MICROCITY'S A HIGH-TECH NIGHTMARE!
I EVEN MISS LONG DIVISION! WELL... SOCIAL STUDIES, MAYBE.
BUT HOW ARE WE GOING TO ESCAPE FROM THE CITY IF WE CAN'T EVEN GET OUT OF THE HOUSE?
SIMPLE! WE JUST ORDER SOME FAST FOOD!
ME BURGER DELIVERY LATER...
AND NOW WE MAKE WITH THE FAST FEET!
WHOOSH!
UT ON THE CLEAN STREETS...
THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY MUST BE JUST ROUND THIS CORNER...
AIEE!
AIEE!
WHO ARE YOU? AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THE SAME THING YOU ARE! US AND EVERYBODY ELSE IN MICROCITY!

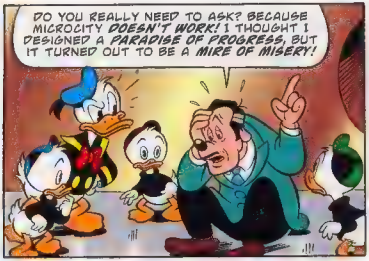

WE'RE TRYING TO ESCAPE BOB PORTALS' URBAN NIGHTMARE OF THE FUTURE! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, THOUGH!
THE NEXT MORNING...
"IMPOSSIBLE," HUH? WELL, DONALD DUCK DOESN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD!
RISE AND SHINE, SIR!
TIME TO GO TO WORK!
WAK!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU!?
WHUPPA WHUPPA
WHUPPA WHUPPA
HEY, WHAT THE—
YEEEHARRGHH!

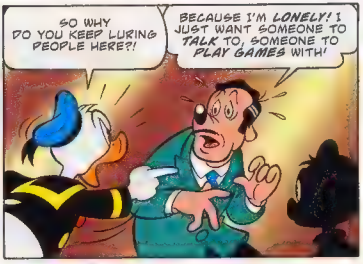

WAIT UNTIL I GET MY HANDS ON THAT BOB PORTALS!
WHOO
THUD!

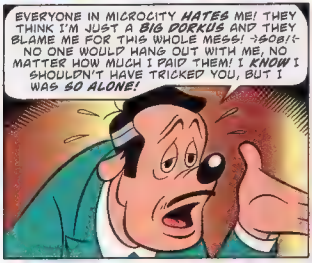

WHERE IS THAT OVERGROWN GEEKAZOID?!

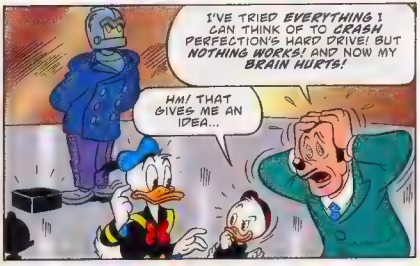

OOF!
WHUMP!


YOU?! YOU WERE TRYING TO ESCAPE TOO?! BUT WHY?!

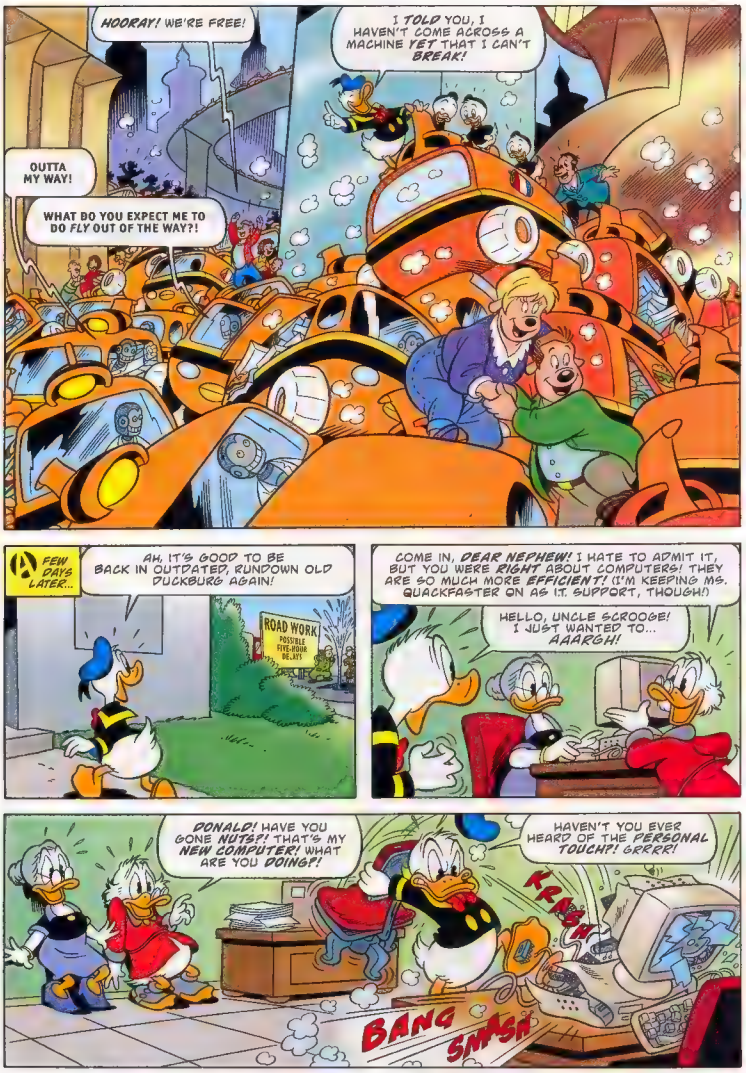

DO YOU REALLY NEED TO ASK? BECAUSE MICROCITY DOESN'T WORK! I THOUGHT I DESIGNED A PARADISE OF PROGRESS, BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE A MIRE OF MISERY!


SO WHY DO YOU KEEP LURING PEOPLE HERE?!
BECAUSE I'M LONELY! I JUST WANT SOMEONE TO TALK TO, SOMEONE TO PLAY GAMES WITH!


EVERYONE IN MICROCITY HATES ME! THEY THINK I'M JUST A BIG DORKUS AND THEY BLAME ME FOR THIS WHOLE MESS! :-SOB!:- NO ONE WOULD HANG OUT WITH ME, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I PAID THEM! I KNOW I SHOULDN'T HAVE TRICKED YOU, BUT I WAS SO ALONE!


I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING I CAN THINK OF TO CRASH PERFECTION'S HARD DRIVE! BUT NOTHING WORKS! AND NOW MY BRAIN HURTS!
HM! THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANYONE ELSE, BUT I'M STARVING! I COULD EAT A BAJILLION MICROFLOPPY BREAKFAST SANDWICHES!
SWOOSH!
WHOOSH!
I SEE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO! AND IT JUST MIGHT WORK!
I'M EVEN HUNGRIER THAN THAT! I'D LIKE TEN UMPTILLION MICROFLOPPY BACON AND EGG PIZZAS—WASHED DOWN BY A GAZILLION MICROFLOPPY COLAS!
I THINK YOUR PLAN IS STARTING TO TAKE EFFECT...
FWIT!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE GREEDY?! ALL I WANT FOR BREAKFAST IS...
BONK
BANG!
KRASH!
...A NICE CUP OF COFFEE!
KABOOM!
WHAT HAPPENED?!
YOU DID IT! YOU OVERLOADED PERFECTION'S MOTHER BOARD! THAT CUP OF COFFEE WAS THE COMMAND THAT BROKE THE MICROPROCESSOR'S BACK!


HOORAY! WE'RE FREE!
I TOLD YOU, I HAVEN'T COME ACROSS A MACHINE YET THAT I CAN'T BREAK!
OUTTA MY WAY!
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO FLY OUT OF THE WAY?!
A FEW DAYS LATER...
AH, IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK IN OUTDATED, RUNDOWN OLD DUCKBURG AGAIN!
ROAD WORK
POSSIBLE FIVE-HOUR DELAYS
COME IN, DEAR NEPHEW! I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT COMPUTERS! THEY ARE SO MUCH MORE EFFICIENT! (I'M KEEPING MS. QUACKFASTER ON AS I.T. SUPPORT, THOUGH!)
HELLO, UNCLE SCROOGE! I JUST WANTED TO... AAARGH!
DONALD! HAVE YOU GONE NUTS?! THAT'S MY NEW COMPUTER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF THE PERSONAL TOUCH?! GRRRR!
KRASH
BANG
SMASH

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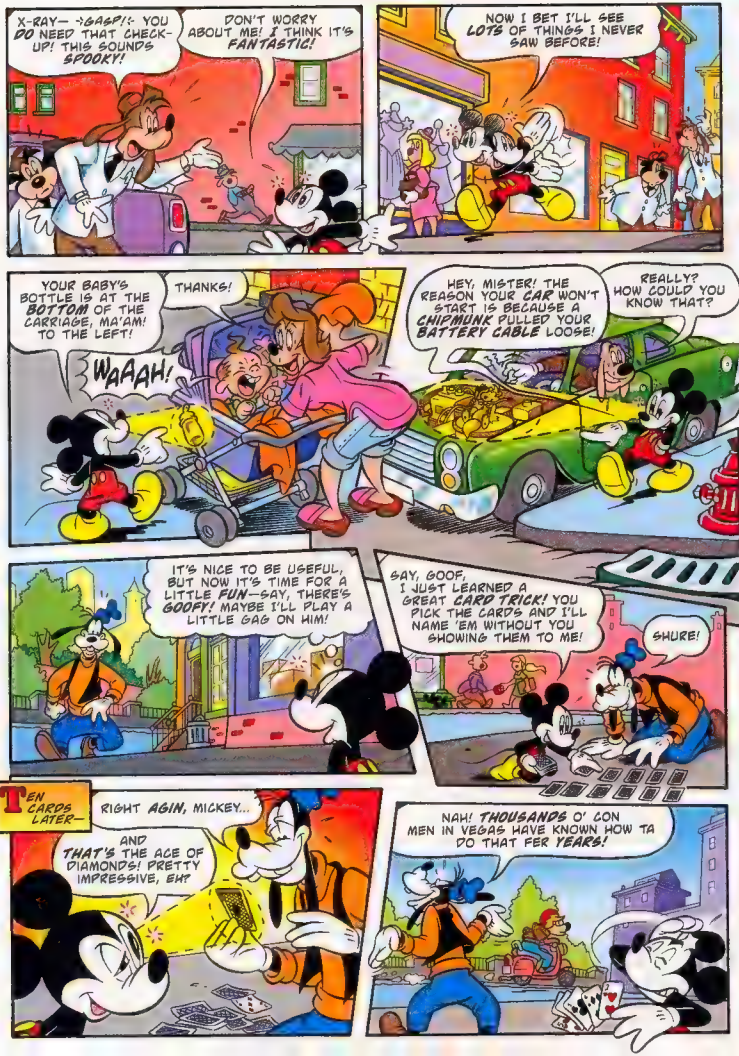
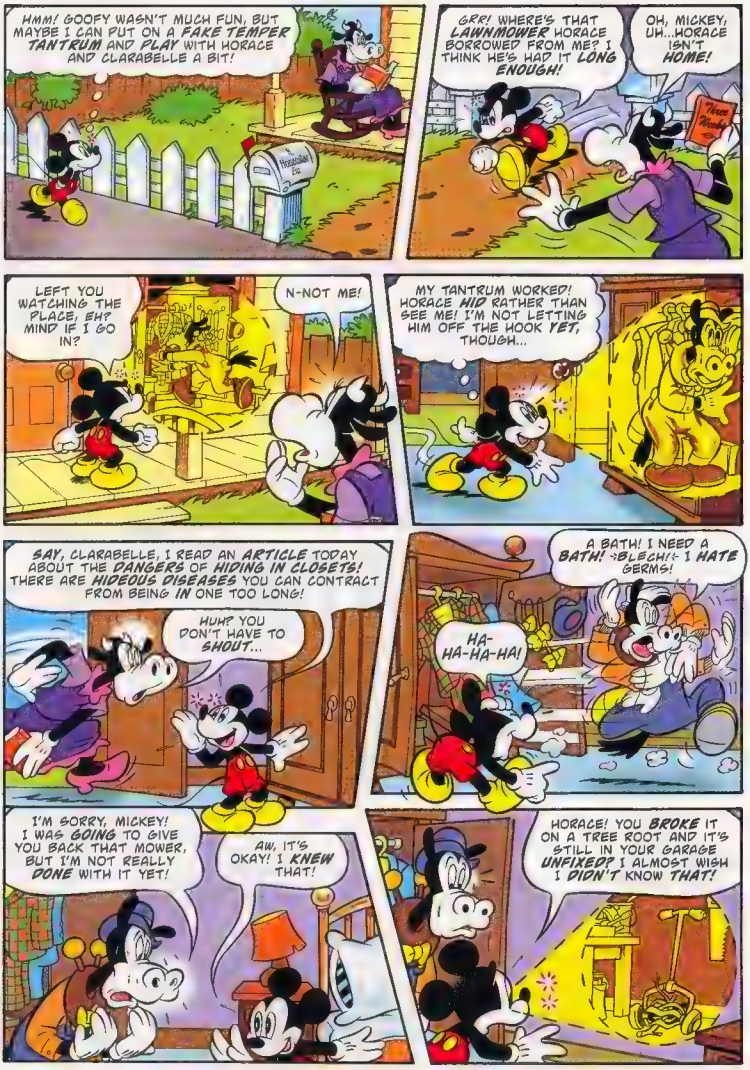
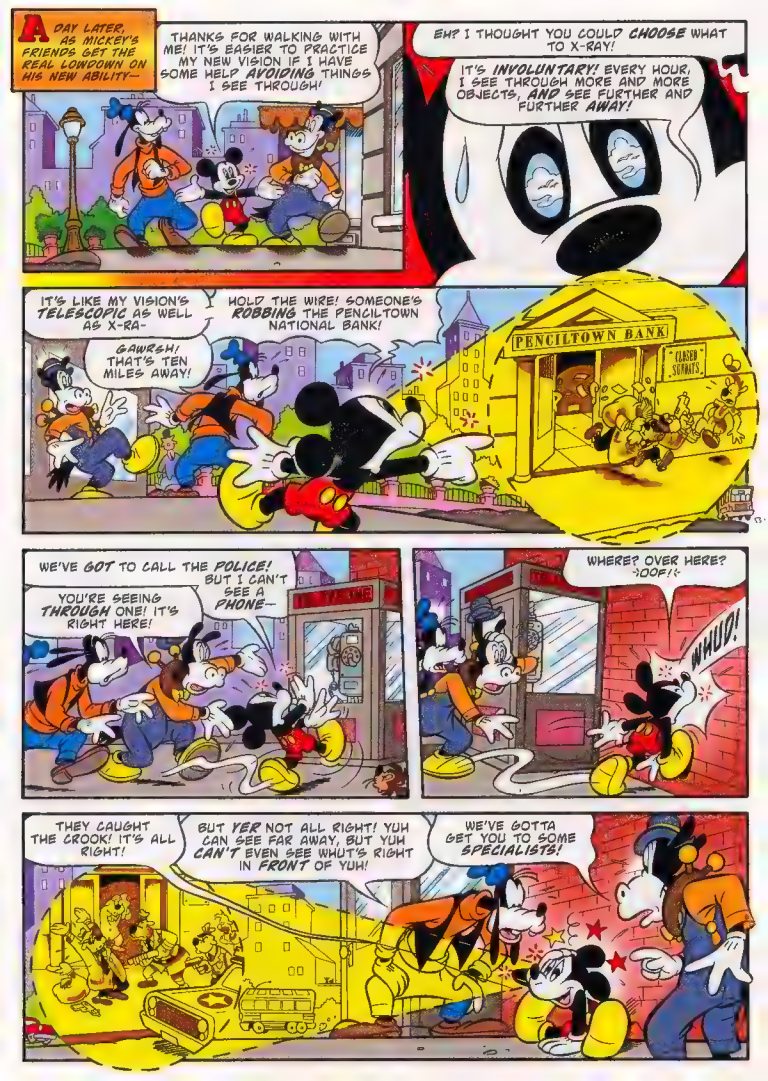
MICKEY MOUSE
HERE'S LOOKING THROUGH YOU
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR, MICKEY! BECAUSE THIS TIME YOU'RE GOING TO GET IT—
ANOTHER DULL DAY! I NEVER GET TO SEE ANYTHING NEW ANYMORE! I WISH SOMETHING DIFFERENT WOULD HAPPEN...
LOOK OUT!
SCREEEE!
D 99120
GACK!
I'M OKAY—JUST WET!
A DOCTOR SHOULD STILL LOOK YOU OVER! MY COMPANY'S INSURANCE WILL PAY!
MY DOCTOR'S OFFICE IS ACROSS THE STREET, BUT THAT SIGN ON HIS DOOR SAYS HE'S OUT!
SIGN? WHAT—?!
THAT'S WHERE I MADE MY LAST DELIVERY, AND THERE'S NO SIGN VISIBLE FROM HERE! IT'S ON THE INNER DOOR!
WHOA! DO YOU MEAN I'M SEEING THROUGH THAT BUILDING'S WALL?
HOLY TAMALE, I CAN EVEN SEE THE PAPERS ON MY DOCTOR'S DESK! I THINK THOSE EYE MEDICINES SOMEHOW COMBINED—AND GAVE ME X-RAY VISION!


X-RAY— -GASP!- YOU DO NEED THAT CHECK-UP! THIS SOUNDS SPOOKY!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! I THINK IT'S FANTASTIC!
NOW I BET I'LL SEE LOTS OF THINGS I NEVER SAW BEFORE!
YOUR BABY'S BOTTLE IS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CARRIAGE, MA'AM! TO THE LEFT!
THANKS!
WAAAH!
HEY, MISTER! THE REASON YOUR CAR WON'T START IS BECAUSE A CHIPMUNK PULLED YOUR BATTERY CABLE LOOSE!
REALLY? HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT?
IT'S NICE TO BE USEFUL, BUT NOW IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE FUN—SAY, THERE'S GOOFY! MAYBE I'LL PLAY A LITTLE GAG ON HIM!
SAY, GOOF, I JUST LEARNED A GREAT CARD TRICK! YOU PICK THE CARDS AND I'LL NAME 'EM WITHOUT YOU SHOWING THEM TO ME!
SHURE!
TEN CARDS LATER—
RIGHT AGIN, MICKEY...
AND THAT'S THE ACE OF DIAMONDS! PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, EH?
NAH! THOUSANDS O' CON MEN IN VEGAS HAVE KNOWN HOW TA DO THAT FER YEARS!


HMM! GOOFY WASN'T MUCH FUN, BUT MAYBE I CAN PUT ON A FAKE TEMPER TANTRUM AND PLAY WITH HORACE AND CLARABELLE A BIT!
GRR! WHERE'S THAT LAWNMOWER HORACE BORROWED FROM ME? I THINK HE'S HAD IT LONG ENOUGH!
OH, MICKEY, UH...HORACE ISN'T HOME!
LEFT YOU WATCHING THE PLACE, EH? MIND IF I GO IN?
N-NOT ME!
MY TANTRUM WORKED! HORACE HID RATHER THAN SEE ME! I'M NOT LETTING HIM OFF THE HOOK YET, THOUGH...
SAY, CLARABELLE, I READ AN ARTICLE TODAY ABOUT THE DANGERS OF HIDING IN CLOSETS! THERE ARE HIDEOUS DISEASES YOU CAN CONTRACT FROM BEING IN ONE TOO LONG!
HUH? YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOUT...
A BATH! I NEED A BATH! >BLECH!< I HATE GERMS!
HA-HA-HA-HA!
I'M SORRY, MICKEY! I WAS GOING TO GIVE YOU BACK THAT MOWER, BUT I'M NOT REALLY DONE WITH IT YET!
AW, IT'S OKAY! I KNEW THAT!
HORACE! YOU BROKE IT ON A TREE ROOT AND IT'S STILL IN YOUR GARAGE UNFIXED? I ALMOST WISH I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!


A DAY LATER, AS MICKEY'S FRIENDS GET THE REAL LOWDOWN ON HIS NEW ABILITY—
THANKS FOR WALKING WITH ME! IT'S EASIER TO PRACTICE MY NEW VISION IF I HAVE SOME HELP AVOIDING THINGS I SEE THROUGH!
EH? I THOUGHT YOU COULD CHOOSE WHAT TO X-RAY!
IT'S INVOLUNTARY! EVERY HOUR, I SEE THROUGH MORE AND MORE OBJECTS, AND SEE FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY!
IT'S LIKE MY VISION'S TELESCOPIC AS WELL AS X-RA-
GAWRSH! THAT'S TEN MILES AWAY!
HOLD THE WIRE! SOMEONE'S ROBBING THE PENCILTOWN NATIONAL BANK!
PENCILTOWN BANK
CLOSED SUNDAYS
WE'VE GOT TO CALL THE POLICE! BUT I CAN'T SEE A PHONE—
YOU'RE SEEING THROUGH ONE! IT'S RIGHT HERE!
WHERE? OVER HERE? OOF!
WHUD!
THEY CAUGHT THE CROOK! IT'S ALL RIGHT!
BUT YER NOT ALL RIGHT! YUH CAN SEE FAR AWAY, BUT YUH CAN'T EVEN SEE WHUT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YUH!
WE'VE GOTTA GET YOU TO SOME SPECIALISTS!

SOON, AT A RESEARCH FACILITY—
AMAZING! MR. MOUSE'S VISION MAY CONTINUE IMPROVING FOREVER! WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'LL SEE?!
HOLY JULES VERNE! LOOKING DOWNWARD, I SEE INTO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH ITSELF!
BUT HE'S BECOME VIRTUALLY BLIND TO THE NORMAL WORLD!
DUE TO LOOKING THROUGH AND PAST THINGS WITHOUT TRYING!
AND NOW— GULP!: I'M SEEING BEYOND THE EARTH, INTO OUTER SPACE!
GOOD NEWS! WE'VE ANALYZED THE CHEMICALS THAT AFFECTED HIS EYES! IT'S A UNIQUE EFFECT THAT COULDN'T BE DUPLICATED WITH ANYONE ELSE'S EYES...
...BUT IT'LL STILL BE SIMPLE TO PREPARE A CURE!
WOW! I'M SEEING A NEBULA SHAPED LIKE A SPIDER!
AND A PURPLE PLANET WITH PINK SPOTS!
!!!
DID YOU HEAR THAT? HIS INCREDIBLE EYES ARE DISCOVERING WHOLE NEW WORLDS!
WE MUSTN'T CURE HIM—THE INFORMATION HE CAN GIVE US IS TOO VALUABLE!

AND THERE'S A WHOLE PLANET FULL OF SINGING PLANTS! AND ANOTHER WHERE PEOPLE HAVE HANDS COMING OUT OF THEIR EARS!
ASTOUNDING! AMAZING! GO ON! GO ON!
HEY, I'VE BEEN HERE FOR HOURS! WHERE'S THAT CURE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
THE CURE! YES, THE CURE! UH—ER, JUST SIT BACK AND RELAX A LITTLE LONGER!
AND TELL US ABOUT THE SINGING PLANTS!
ARE THEY GREEN, LIKE PLANTS ON OUR WORLD? DO THEY HAVE MOUTHS?
HEY, WE KNOW WHUT'S GOIN' ON HERE!
YEAH! YOU'RE USING OUR FRIEND LIKE SOME KIND OF HUMAN TELESCOPE—WITHOUT EVEN ASKING ME!
AHEM! THIS IS A PRIVATE FACILITY! I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE!
HEY!
YUH CAN'T DO THIS!
GULP! I HEARD THAT! THESE SCIENTISTS WANT TO MAKE ME THEIR GUINEA PIG FOR LIFE! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING—
TELL US ABOUT ANOTHER PLANET, MR. MOUSE!
OF COURSE! NOW TO LOOK FARTHER THAN I'VE EVER LOOKED BEFORE...

I'M SEEING A BLUE-GREEN WORLD, FULL OF CITIES AND LIFE! I'VE GOT A GREAT VIEW OF ONE OF THEIR TOWNS!
YES, YES! KEEP GOING!
GET AN ARTIST IN HERE TO DRAW WHAT HE'S DESCRIBING!
I CAN SEE EVERY BUILDING! I'LL TELL YOU WHAT EACH ONE LOOKS LIKE!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? THIS IS THE PLANET EARTH! AND THE TOWN HE DESCRIBES IS OURS!
GASP! HE MUST HAVE SEEN ALL THE WAY TO THE END OF THE UNIVERSE, AND IS NOW LOOKING AT A REFLECTION OF SOME SORT!
SIGH! WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT WOULD COME TO THIS? OUR FAULT FOR ASKING!
SERVES US RIGHT! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...
THERE YOU GO, SON! YOU SHOULD BE FINE IN AN HOUR!
PLOP! PLOP!
THANKS!
MICKEY, DID YUH REALLY SEE TA THUH END OF THUH UNIVERSE?
I DON'T THINK HUMANS EVER WILL, GOOFY! I JUST DESCRIBED OUR TOWN FROM MEMORY...
.. AND YOU KNOW, EVEN THOUGH MY POWER WAS KINDA NEAT, I'M GLAD TO BE BACK IN A WORLD WHERE I'VE SEEN IT ALL!
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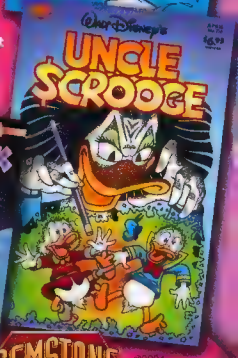

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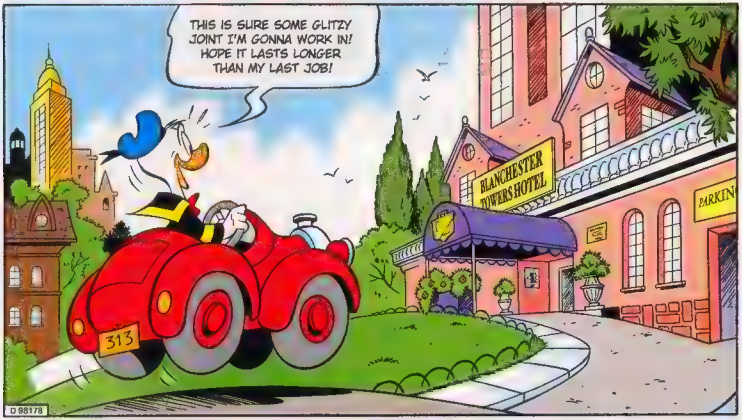
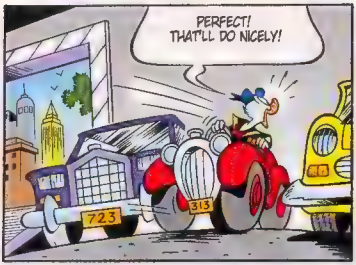
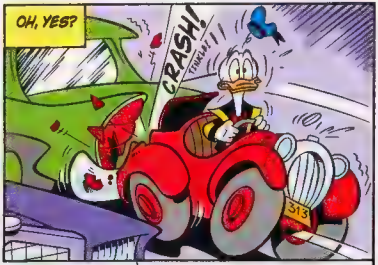
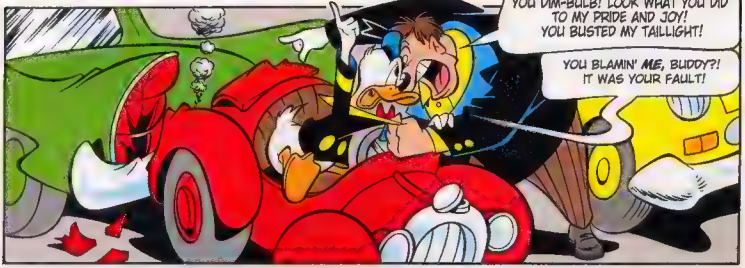

THIS IS SURE SOME GLITZY JOINT I'M GONNA WORK IN! HOPE IT LASTS LONGER THAN MY LAST JOB!
BLANCHESTER TOWERS HOTEL
PARKIN
313
D 98178



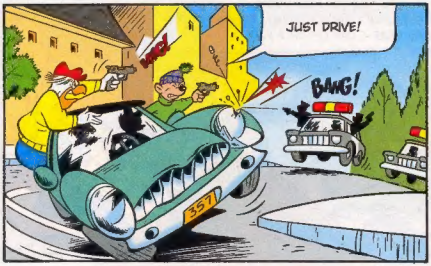


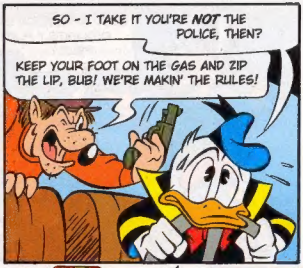


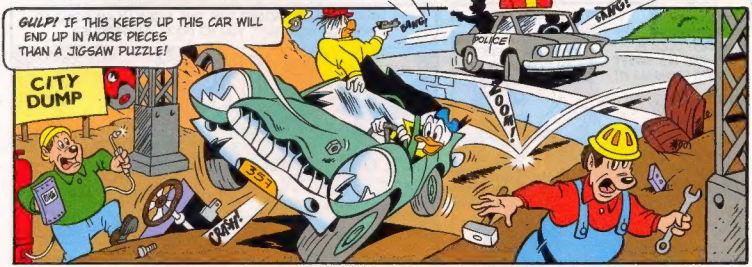
I OUGHTTA POUND YOU INTO NEXT WEEK! TOO BAD I'M LATE FOR WORK ALREADY!
I'M RUNNING BEHIND TOO! LUCKY FOR YOU!
HE GOT OFF EASY! I WOULD'VE GIVEN HIM A CRUNCHIN' HE'D NEVER FORGET!
NOW TO CHECK IN AND REPORT FOR DUTY AT THE FRONT OF THE HOTEL!
MINUTES LATER -
HOWDY, PAL! I'M THE NEW PARKING ATTENDANT!
YOU!! THE MANIAC WHO NEARLY OBLITERATED MY CAR!
H-HEY! STEADY ON! LET BYGONES BE BYGONES, OKAY? NO HARD FEELINGS?
YOU SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED ANYWHERE NEAR A CAR! FORGET THE JOB! YOU'RE FIRED!
YOU CAN'T FIRE ME - I HAVEN'T STARTED WORK YET! HOW CAN YOU FIRE SOMEONE WHO'S NOT WORKING?
YOU GOT A POINT THERE! BUT I'LL BE WATCHING!
IF I SEE THE SMALLEST NICK ON ANYONE'S CAR YOU'LL BE ON THE STREET SO FAST, YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO BLINK!
OKAY, OKAY! MESSAGE RECEIVED!

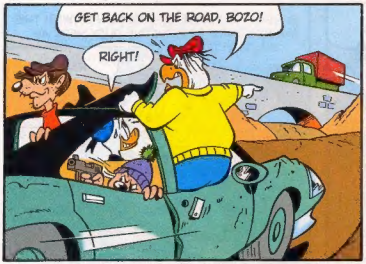
JUST THEN -
A WHATSIT?
OH, MY GOODNESS! LOOK AT THAT! A BRAND NEW STUMBAGEL BULLET!
557
GREAT FAWNING FLUNKIES! THAT'S PHISBERT STUMBAGEL HIMSELF!
WHO?
THE OWNER AND CHIEF DESIGNER OF STUMBAGEL MOTORS - THE MOST EXPENSIVE, EXCLUSIVE MAKE OF CAR IN THE WORLD!
HOW NICE FOR HIM!
ARE YOU THE PARKING ATTENDANT?
I MOST CERTAINLY AM, SIR!
GO PARK MY CAR! THERE'S A GOOD CHAP!
MY PLEASURE, SIR!
AND NOW I NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE MY BAGGAGE!
THAT'S MY PRIVILEGE, SIR!
IF YOU ALLOW SO MUCH AS A SPECK OF DUST TO TOUCH THIS CAR...
...YOU'RE GONNA CLEAN IT FROM TOP TO BOTTOM WITH A TOOTHBRUSH!

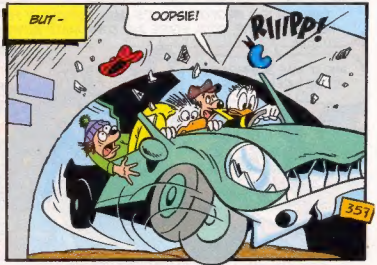
MOMENTS LATER -
WHAT A KING-SIZE WOW OF A WONDERFUL CAR! IT COULDN'T DO ANY HARM TO TAKE IT FOR A SPIN AROUND THE BLOCK!
357
NO WONDER GUYS LIKE FLASHY CARS! THE GIRLS SURE GO FOR 'EM!
BANK
CRASH!
OOPS!
HUH?!!
SMASH!
WHA?!!
ANK.
GET IN HERE!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON!?
THERE'S BEEN A BANK ROBBERY! WE'VE GOT TO MOVE! AND FAST!
AH! YOU'RE THE POLICE! COUNT ON ME, FELLAS! I'M ALWAYS READY TO HELP OUT! WHICH WAY DID THEY GO?

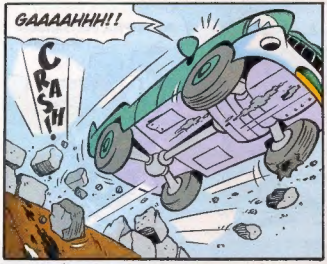

JUST DRIVE!
BANG!
BANG!
357

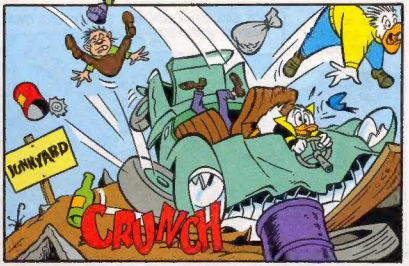

SO - I TAKE IT YOU'RE NOT THE POLICE, THEN?
KEEP YOUR FOOT ON THE GAS AND ZIP THE LIP, BUB! WE'RE MAKIN' THE RULES!


GULP! IF THIS KEEPS UP THIS CAR WILL END UP IN MORE PIECES THAN A JIGSAW PUZZLE!
CITY DUMP
BANG!
POLICE
BANG!
ZOOM!
357
CRASH!


GET BACK ON THE ROAD, BOZO!
RIGHT!


BUT -
OOPSIE!
RIIIPP!
357


GAAAAHHH!!
CRASH!


JUNKYARD
CRUNCH

GOOD AFTERNOON SIR! IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO SELL THIS EXQUISITELY FLATTENED HEAP I CAN OFFER A FAIR PRICE!
THANKS, BUT IT'S NOT MINE TO SELL!
SOON AFTERWARDS -
I SENT FOR YOUR CAR, MR. STUMBAGEL, BUT THAT IDIOT DUCK IS TAKING HIS SWEET TIME BRINGING IT!
I'M SURE THERE'S AN EXPLANATION!
WH- WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? THIS TIME I REALLY AM GOING TO KICK YOU INTO ORBIT, YOU NO GOOD, DANGEROUS-
WAIT!
THIS CAR IS A PROTOTYPE! IT'S MADE ESPECIALLY FOR HEADS OF STATE, ROCK STARS AND CORPORATE BIGWIGS!
AND IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE INDESTRUCTIBLE!
CLEARLY, I'LL HAVE TO REDESIGN IT! WITH THIS MAGNIFICENTLY DESTRUCTIVE DUCK HERE AS MY CHIEF TESTER!
REALLY?
NO, NO, NO! IT'S NOT FAIR! NOT FAIR!
NOT BAD, DEAR BOY, BUT I ONLY NEED ONE MASTER WRECKER!
YEAH, PAL! BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!

Ah, dinosaurs, space ships, and robots. All hallmarks of comics' Silver Age… give or take a talking gorilla or two. They were even hallmarks of Donald's Silver Age as well, given Carl Barks' "Micro Ducks from Outer Space" and "The Giant Robot Robbers." If one cares to extend the Silver Age back as far as Barks' late 1950s Donald Duck adventure "Forbidden Valley," even dinosaurs make the cut!

Lars Jensen and Marco Rota's "World's Apart," in *Donald Duck and Friends* 316, gives us all this and a few tanks, missiles, and a perky little "alien duckess" for good measure. Rota is in perfect form, stretching his artistic muscles squarely into realms formerly reserved for greats like Jack Kirby, Carmine Infantino, Gil Kane, and, yes… Barks.

If there's any quibble to be had, it's that the fun ends too soon. Even sooner, it seemed, than some of those old "eight-pagers" of the Silver Age. A pity our "Friends" for the issue, Mickey, the Junior Woodchucks, and Daisy, couldn't have allowed Don a tad more room for this "twelve-cent type" of adventure, before yanking him back to the… um, "Gemstone Age of Comics." After all, the gorillas would have shown up eventually.

—Joe Torciwia
via email

Well, after the Shambor stories and the Riverside Rovers, I really didn't think the Joe Torciwia/Danny Horn rivalry would continue, but here you go:

I agree with your editorial: Dinosaurs, robots and science-fiction adventure are fun, and that style should have a solid place in Disney comics. Unfortunately, the story "Worlds Apart" doesn't do much with those elements besides throwing them together and stirring.

The first few pages set up a nice premise for the story—Donald messes with Gyro's invention and ends up stranded in time, running away from hungry dinosaurs. Marco Rota draws a nice dinosaur, and the splash panel of Donald fleeing from a T-Rex is lots of fun. But after a few pages, more elements start getting tossed in. There's a spaceship and a pretty space-duck from the future. A couple pages later: Angry robots! A couple pages later: Tanks and weapons! A couple pages later: It's over!

There's some handwaving about how Donald's crossing the time barrier pulls in other things from around the universe, but there's no real logic behind what got pulled in. Donald notes that the robots are "guarding missiles and other weapons from the past, present and future!" But why missiles and weapons? Why not umbrellas, or puppies? Apparently that was just thrown in because a big pile of weapons makes for a scary splash panel.

I'm happy to see science fiction and dinosaurs, but it seems like the narrative here was dictated entirely by what's fun to draw.

Mickey in "The Headless Warrior" was a more satisfying story. It's based entirely on coincidences —Mickey happens to run across the same crooks on vacation that he ran into in town—but one event leads logically to another. Mickey gets some nice moments of courage and clever thinking, and some exciting swimming scenes. It didn't set my world on fire, but it wasn't bad.

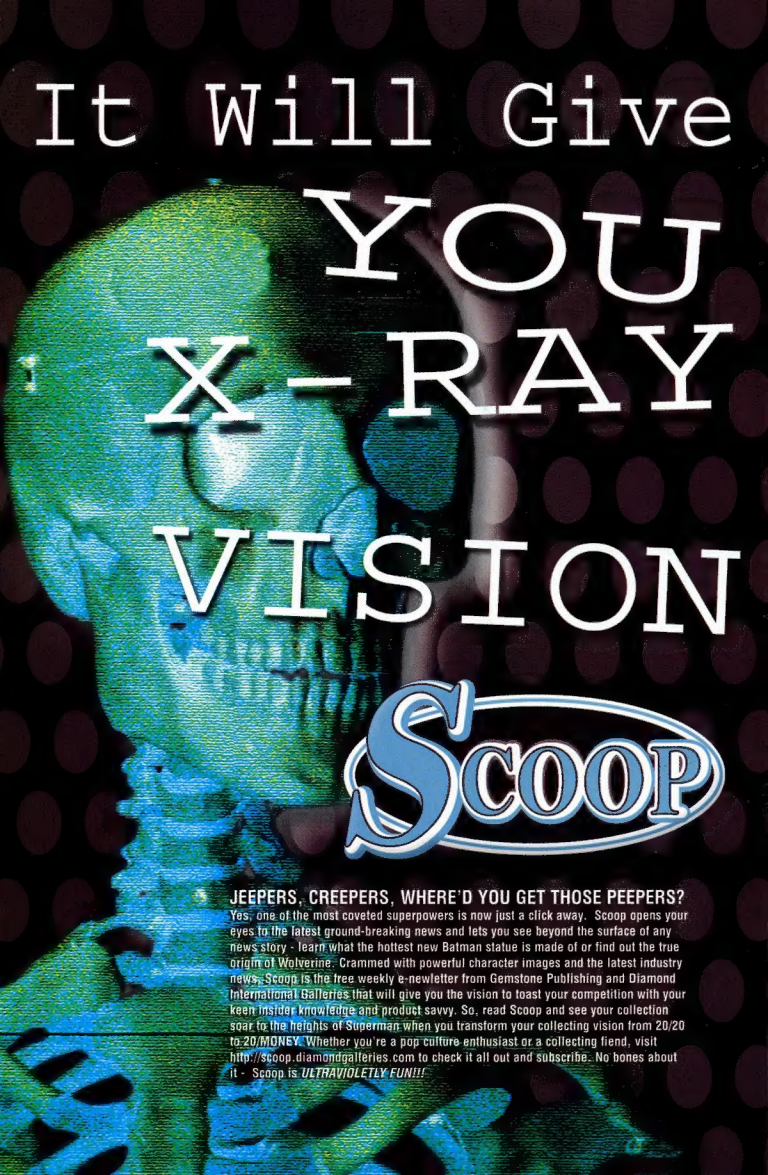
—Danny Horn
via email

Actually, I agree more with Joe than with Danny, as you might expect since I chose to print the story. Granted the story had some logic loopholes, but it was still good adventure. And why not have the alien robots guarding weapons? Sure, because it's scary. That's the point. But I love to see the differing opinions. Keep it up guys! Now let's hear from a brand new correspondent:

I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the "Worlds Apart" story in *DD&F* 316. Please pass my compliments on to the team that brought it to life. I love a good time travel story and this one will certainly make my list. In fact with all the elements—dinosaurs, time travel, robots—it reminded me a bit of the way SF author Clifford Simak put all kinds of wonderful things together and whipped up a memorable story. And Donald got what he has always wanted—to be the center of everything. But my big question is, will we see Luna NJ-1980 again? I really like her. Where did she come from? Where did she go? What kind of adventure will she have next? Your readers want answers. Anyway, thanks for putting out such a great magazine. Keep it up!

—Penny Kenny
via email

Thanks Penny, for this and for your letter in this month's Mickey Mouse and Friends. *I hope to see more from you in the future. As for Luna, who knows if we (or Donald) will ever see her again? It's really up to the dynamic team of writer Lars Jensen and artist Marco Rota to answer that one.*
—John Clark



JEEPERS, CREEPERS, WHERE'D YOU GET THOSE PEEPERS?

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